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Leçons de Géographie Physique, par Albert de Lapparent, professeur à l'École Libre de Hautes Études, ancien Président de la Commission Centrale de la Société de Géographie. Ouvrage Contenant 117 figures dans le texte et une planche en couleurs. Masson et Cie., Éditeurs Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, 1896. 8vo.

This book does not pretend to be a *Treatise* on physical geography. It is to be regarded, in the author's words, as a kind of bridge between the two sciences, geography and geology, including of the latter only what seems strictly necessary and never omitting from the study of the present forms the consideration of the past which has produced them.

An alternative title suggested is: *Lessons on the Genesis of Geographical Forms*, and M. de Lapparent admits that, if he had been writing in America, he would not have hesitated to adopt the word *geomorphogeny*, which first saw the light in this country. Correctly formed as the word is and useful as it may be, there are many among M. de Lapparent's readers who will not regret its absence from the lucid pages to which the new vocabulary has contributed a part of its luxuriant growth.

In the first fifteen lessons M. de Lapparent discusses the definition of the subject, the figure and dimensions of the earth, the relief of its crust, the general conditions and the special forces which have fashioned the surface and the forms, the cycles of erosion, the action of the ice, the winds, and the waters of the ocean, and the incomplete palæographical record, not less difficult to read than a book which has lost the greater part of its leaves.

The physical constitution of Europe is explained in five lessons. Then follow, in succession, the Mediterranean region from Italy east to the Caspian, and south to the Atlas Chain, the little-known Asiatic lands, the Indo-African platforms, North America, Central America and the Antilles, South America, and the Polar Regions.

This rapid sketch of the globe embodies the results of the latest investigations and is drawn with the sure hand of a master.

The illustrations could not well be improved.

The Continent of America, Its Discovery and Its Baptism. An Essay on the Nomenclature of the Old Continents. A Critical and Bibliographical Inquiry into the Naming of America and into the Cosmography of the New World; together with an Attempt to establish the Landfall of Columbus on Watling Island, and the subsequent Discoveries and Explorations on the Main Land by Americus Vesputius.

By John Boyd Thacher. 4to. New York, William Evarts Benjamin, 1896.

Mr. Thacher says in his Preface:

The chief purpose of this book is to establish the time and place of the naming of America. Baptism suggests birth, and the naming of America leads us back to its discovery. To speak of Vesputius is to tell of Columbus, and we have thus been persuaded by the association and sequence of important events to follow the first voyage of Columbus, the discoverer, and the first voyage of Vesputius, the explorer, and to determine with some degree of certainty the landfall of each.

Mr. Thacher has performed a labour of love in following the discoverer and the explorer, but it does not appear that he has added anything to what was already known about them, although he formally marks at the end of each chapter the stage of progress in the recital of an old, familiar story. Something more than this was to be expected of a writer who introduces us, in his title-page, to the *Cosmography* of the New World; but

Oft expectation fails, and most oft there
Where most it promises.

Style redeems all shortcomings, but our author has not the magic gift of style. Columbus is for him (p. 7) one of the few giant figures of the world, standing to-day as he will stand forever, great, grand, colossal.

Mr. Thacher hopes (p. 19) that he has prepared the way for self-congratulation in the hearts of Americans, since, not only do they know for whom their world is called, but the very day and hour of its baptismal ceremony, and he pushes sentimentality beyond bounds when he takes leave of Vesputius (pp. 256-257):

And now we leave the reader at the door of the temple in which, close to the statue of Columbus, we have seen that of Vesputius firmly established. . . . Under our eyes the story of his travels has come to the little mountain town in Lorraine, and we have heard in that quiet spot the solemn words of baptism with which the *novus mundus* was given his name. . . . We have seen in this book of Ortelius the acceptance of the New World into the sisterhood of four continents, a co-heiress to the glory of the earth. Not in all these things have we had one unworthy thought of Americus Vesputius. Having followed him not afar off, but hand in hand, we feel we know something of him and of his work, and as Columbus, his friend, commended him to his son Diego, so we can confidently and with honest praise commend him to you, O reader, and to the world.

The illustrations and maps in this stately volume are satisfactory reproductions. They include some not previously accessible and a few pictures of St. Dié, the Baptismal Font of America, as Mr. Thacher is pleased to call it.

The book is printed by the DeVinne Press, and it would be difficult to produce in any part of the world a more beautiful specimen of work.